Lifestyle / C1



Departures 2004: Bibot's lessons; Lino Severino, artist who soared



Business / B1

Ayala Ave. land, one of SSS' P14-B assets for sale

News / A3

Militants hit Palace plan to sell farmers' shares in SMC

Business / B3

New Year's Eve war of the fireworks: the Fort vs Ayala Ave.

News / A5

10 more foreigners fall in Davao drug raid

GMA to attend Asean int'l aid summit in Indonesia

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Estrada stands 2 inches taller with replaced knees



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Hopes dim for 22 Pinoys



Thai chilling message won't stop RP search team

"God never abandons us"

RP to benefit as tourism alternative

'How can you tell a mother to give up hope?'

Stories that captivated Fil-Ams in '04

GMA message insensitive to Asian disaster

ANALYSIS



THE LONGEST NIGHT OF A NEW DAY

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Palace sees brighter prospects in 2005 for RP; sets wish list

By Juliet Labog-Javellana



BUNYE: Strong belief



AFABLE: Clear agenda

Naia 3 takeover

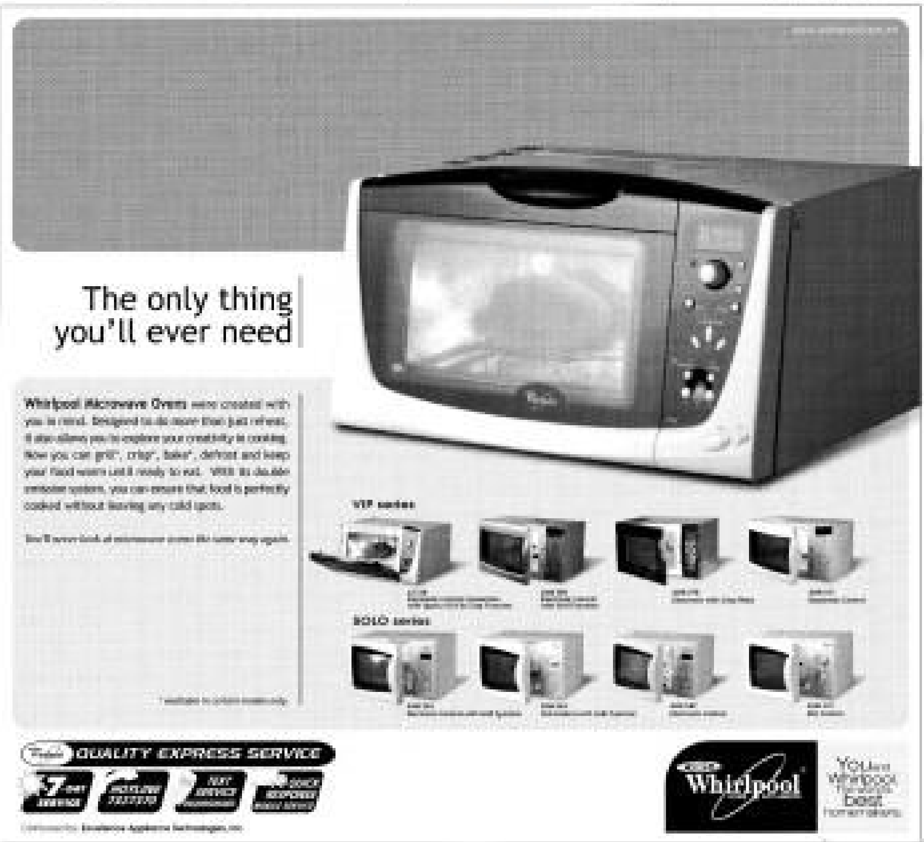
. . . But Pimentel expects more hard times ahead

By Christine O. Avendaño

Standby fund for relief work proposed

By Cynthia D. Balana

Fund administrator



Militants score plan to sell coco tillers' shares in SMC

By Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

A MILITANT farmers' group yesterday criticized the government over its reported plan to sell the San Miguel Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank shares that had been bought with coconut levy funds.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said the fund now estimated at P130 billion belonged to the coconut farmers who had fought to recover it.

"This is a most dastardly and treacherous act against the small coconut farmers who had fought long and hard to regain the coco levy funds. Now the first act of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the new year is to betray them," said Willy Marbella, KMP spokesperson.

Marbella said the administration's purported plan to sell the coco levy shares to generate much-needed funds for the government revealed Ms Arroyo's intent to control the fund.

"No wonder most of the rulings [were] somewhat in favor of the small farmers but what [the President was] planning all along [was] to amass the more than P130-billion coco levy fund for herself, on the pretext that it would be used for the ailing economy," Marbella said.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano, himself a former KMP leader, said the coco levy fund should be returned to the coconut farmers instead of being used for agrarian reform purposes as proposed by some quarters.

He has proposed a bill creating a trust fund for the benefit of the small coconut farmers and the rehabilitation of the coconut industry.

In the still unnumbered bill, Mariano called for the establishment of a "Genuine Small Coconut Farmers' Fund for the Rehabilitation and Development of the Coconut Industry."

"The GSCFFRDCI shall not be a part of the general fund of the national government and shall be used exclusively for the rehabilitation and development of the coconut industry and the uplift of the lives of those dependent on it," Mariano said.

Last December, the Sandiganbayan affirmed its earlier ruling granting the government control over the 27-percent in SMC shares worth at least P55 billion.

The antigraft court also affirmed its decision granting the government control over 72.2 percent of UCPB also in the name of the small coco farmers.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the coconut levy funds were public funds.

Under the Mariano bill, the UCPB shall remain the financing and investment arm of the coconut industry "in order to secure reasonable returns for such portions of the funds capitalized for investment ventures..."

In Lucena City, a coconut farmer-leader asked Malacañang to utilize the 27-percent bloc of shares in SMC for the rehabilitation of calamity-stricken areas in northern Quezon instead of selling it to raise funds for the cash-short government.

Claro Talaga, also a former Quezon board member, said the coco levy fund belonged entirely to the coconut farmers.

"There are no 'ifs' and 'buts' about that. But once it is disposed of by the government, we're afraid the entire proceeds will be siphoned back to the national treasury with the millions of coconut farmers holding the empty bag," Talaga said.

On Saturday, Malacañang hinted at a plan to sell the 27-percent interest in SMC to help the government wriggle out of the financial crisis. *With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Kiko: Special session won't see bills passed

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE Majority Leader Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan yesterday said he did not expect Congress to approve any tax measures during the three-day special session called by Malacañang on Jan. 5-7.

But Pangilinan said the three extra session days would still be beneficial to the senators as this would "give us the momentum to hit the ground running."

"(The extra session days) would also give us leeway before we tackle the budget bill," said Pangilinan in a phone interview.

Malacañang called for the special session in order to get at least one more tax measure of the eight proposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo passed. Only the increased excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products has been passed by both houses of Congress.

The Palace is pushing for the approval of all the eight tax measures in order to generate P80 billion in revenues for the government.

Pangilinan said the special session at most would see senators putting the finishing touches to two more tax measures.

These are the Lateral Attrition Act and the proposal to limit exemptions from the Value-Added Tax which is also being proposed to be increased from 10 to 12 percent.

The Senate majority leader said he expects senators to be able to complete floor deliberations on the lateral attrition bill which would give special incentives to government officials and personnel to perform well or retire early.

"The lateral attrition bill might be passed the week after (the special session) at the earliest," Pangilinan said.

Christians assure GMA of support

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COUNTRY'S Christian bloc, representing 20,000 churches nationwide, has assured President Macapagal-Arroyo of its support and affirmed its faith in the government.

The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC), a group often wooed by politicians for support, urged Filipinos to back the government's efforts at unity following the tragedies that marked the past year.

In his New Year message, PCEC national director Bishop Efraim Tendero said Filipinos should move into 2005 with faith in what God can do for the nation through individuals and the government.

"Let us labor together towards uniting the Filipino people. Upholding our *bayanihan* spirit and our faith in the Almighty God, let us work hand in hand with everyone in rebuilding our nation. Let us continue to support President Macapagal-Arroyo as she leads our country," Tendero said.

He said 2004 was a crucial time for the country because of the "alarming degree of disunity brought about by one of the most bitterly contested presidential elections."

Aside from the political disunity, Tendero recalled the fiscal crisis and super typhoons that hit the Philippines last year.

"As we face yet another year of uncertainty and continue to feel the brunt of last year's devastations, it is easy for us to get overwhelmed by a sense of hopelessness and to lose our sense of destiny," Tendero said.

"It is thus necessary that we focus on God and on what He can do in our individual lives and in our life as a nation. We can have hope and be bearers of hope," he said.

Stories that captivated Fil-Ams in 2004





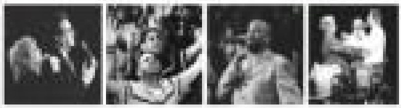




Credit downgrade no big deal—economist

10 more foreigners nabbed in Davao drugs crackdown







The WORLD

Bloodshed greets Iraq in new year

BAGHDAD—Iraqi insurgents made a bloody start to 2005 killing at least 14 people, including a US soldier and a Lebanese contractor, with promised nationwide elections less than a month away.

Most wanted militant among Riyadh suicide car bombers

Renegade Peru troops seek president's ouster



US mulls lifetime detention for terror suspects

Argentina begins burying victims of disco fire

Abbas gets hero's welcome in Gaza Strip



PALESTINIANS carry on their shoulders Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas during a Fatah election campaign rally in Rafah south of Gaza Strip Jan. 1.

'How can you tell a mother to give up hope?'



Teaching quotes

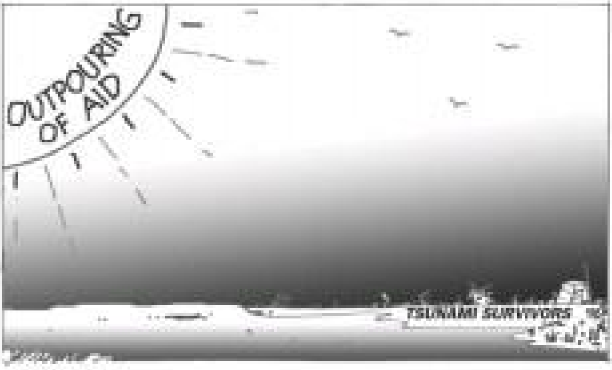
Outwitting the crocodiles

Thank the waves

RP to benefit as tourism alternative

INQUIRER

Opinion



Urgent change

EDITORIAL

One firecracker victim is one too many

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Sooner than we think

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Sandiganbayan plays Santa to coco farmers

POLITICAL TIDBITS



Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Susan, Marcos also stole our dreams

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

More on racism

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

Difference of opinions

READERS' ADVOCATE



Raul J. Palabrica

No peace without justice

[illegible]

LETTERS

Conserving environment through population control

[illegible]

Fire safety is everyone's concern

[illegible]

A (Christmas) wish of Hacienda Luisita folks

[illegible]

Let loggers pay for Umiray repair

[illegible]

Across the NATION

5 dead in Cavite family feud

Fewer 'cracker victims reported in New Year revelry

By the PDI Bureaus



Negros Oriental gov braces for possible closure of hospitals

2 Cebu escapees recaptured

Small hole

AFP version: Kidnapped victim saved, not freed

Hopes dim for 22 Pinoys



GMA message insensitive to Asian disaster

Estrada stands 2 inches taller with replaced knees

GMA to attend Asean . . .

METRO

Holidays produce 12,000 tons of garbage

Manila requires businesses to display new license plates

12 cops shoot, miss suspect; 1 killed



Ex-BI agent milks wrong cow



DE GUZMAN

Romeo Aguila y Zara; 53

PSA-Red Bull tie-up alive in 2005

FOR THE last 11 years, Red Bull-Agfa Colors and the Philippine Sportswriters Association have combined to give recognition to the country's sports achievers through the annual PSA Awards Night at the Manila Pavilion.

On Thursday, Jan. 13, Red Bull and Agfa Colors, two sports oriented products distributed by PBA team Shaw Photokina, will again join efforts with the PSA when it honors the top athletes of 2004 headed by golfer Jennifer Rosales and boxer Manny Pacquiao, who were voted Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year, respectively.

Since 1994, Red Bull-Agfa Colors and the PSA have built a long-running relationship which is expected to continue through the years despite the hard and trying times. Red Bull, by the way, also supports the PSA Forum, a weekly program which brings into focus the sports issues of the day.

"We are happy with our relationship with the PSA and we value this strongly," said Red Bull team owner George Chua. "We always been a great honor to be part of a big occasion honoring the Filipino athletes who made the country proud last year."

The annual PSA Awards Night and the weekly PSA Forum are two key public-service projects of the sportswriters [illegible]



CLEAN LIVING

Marcelo B. Filipp

[illegible]



PARICA: On track

Parica shines in California

FILIPINOS Jose "Amang" Parica of Manila and Santos Sambajon opened their bids on a high note after winning their respective matches at the start of the [illegible] Billiards [illegible] in California, USA, over the weekend.

[illegible]

Rodigan 'Rumble' slated

[illegible]





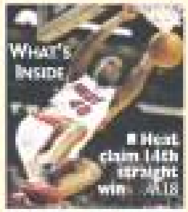
SPORTS

PSA inducts four more greats to Hall of Fame

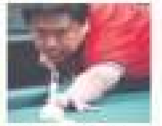




LOYZAGA

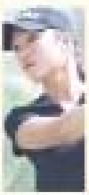


■ Heat claim 14th straight win A18



■ Parica shines in California A16

Bondad on target for Open defense



BONDAD

Paragua laments GM title impasse

IM Gonzales loses anew



HEAT: Heat forward Udonis Haslem slams one home vs the Charlotte Bobcats. AP

Scorching Heat claim 14th straight win

MIAMI—Dwyane Wade used an array of dunks and a spectacular blind over-the-shoulder flip to score 26 points and lead the Miami Heat to their 14th straight win, 113-90, Saturday night over the Charlotte Bobcats.

[illegible]

Nets 91, Knicks 87

[illegible]

Grizzlies 104, T'wolves 95

[illegible]

Trail Blazers 97, Warriors 88

[illegible] AP

Hewitt returns to hometown Adelaide

ADELAIDE, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt [illegible]



AP HEWITT

Coming soon, Olympic bid debate on TV

NEW YORK—The first TV debate in Olympic bid history might be coming soon.

[illegible]

Ground rules

[illegible] AP

Hopman Cup helps Coria slay demons

PERTH—Guillermo Coria exorcised a few ghosts on Sunday when he recorded his first victory in over six months [illegible]



[illegible] Reuters

How Pacquiao fell for Darlington socks

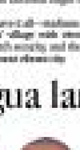
Bare Eye



Recah Trinidad

[illegible]

Paragua laments GM title impasse



PARAGUA

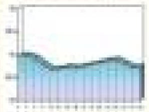
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BUSINESS

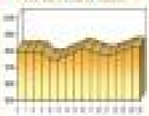
SSS selling ₱14.5B worth of assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

Currencies



Stock Market



Brighter trading year ahead seen

Budget gap in '05 seen at ₱180B

Canadian firm eyes deal with Lepanto

True wealth



No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

Drivers for 2004

Wealth that matters

Cloudy crystal ball

Pilipinas Kao gets incentives

Brighter trading ...

Fireworks war

Cocktails

Victor C. Agustin

Good-bye, Shell Plaza

Sibling rivalry

Heard through the grapevine

Lie-flats seats : higher mileage

LIFESTYLE

DEPARTURES 2004

Bibot's lessons on theater and life

[illegible]

'Education is not instruction but discovery'

[illegible]

Acceptance

[illegible]



[illegible]

The artist who soared

[illegible]

A former pilot, Lino Severino painted ancestral houses with the passion of his Silay childhood

[illegible]



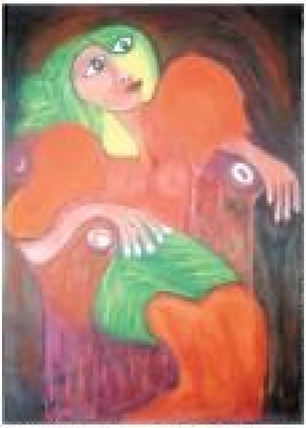
LINO Severino, artist of nostalgia



"SERENITY" by Raymundo



"SUNSET" by Jill Raymundo



Jill Raymundo at Le Soufflé

VISUAL ARTS



"SEASCAPE" by Raymundo

Season's surprises from two women



"MORNING Light"



"MARANAO Women"

Top printmakers at UST Beato Angelico Gallery



"UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas,"

DEPARTURES 2004

Poorer by two

By Constantino C. Tejero

THIS week is the death anniversary of two of our literary fathers.



ANDRES Cristobal Cruz



E. ARSENIO Manuel

Romantic realist

Another passing

Bibot's lessons on theater and life

Moving film

Lifelong education

A Madrigal Christmas feast



PHILIPPINE Madrigal Singers

Medieval program

Simple but filling

The artist . . .